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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/777,984	02/12/2004	Jacobus Gerardus Joannes Hoogstraten	SVS3801P0430US	9468

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WOOD, PHILLIPS, KATZ, CLARK & MORTIMER
500 W. MADISON STREET
SUITE 3800
CHICAGO, IL 60661

EXAMINER

ROBINSON, KEITH O NEAL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1638

DATE MAILED: 04/04/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/777,984

Applicant(s)

HOOGSTRATEN ET AL.

Examiner

Keith O. Robinson, Ph.D.

Art Unit

1638

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicants are reminded that different nucleotide sequences are structurally distinct chemical compounds and are unrelated to one another. These sequences are thus deemed to normally constitute independent and distinct inventions within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 121. Absent evidence to the contrary, each such nucleotide sequence is presumed to represent an independent and distinct invention, subject to a restriction requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 CFR 1.141 et seq.

Upon election of a Group below, Applicant is additionally required to select a single nucleotide sequence and corresponding amino acid sequence for said Group. This requirement is not to be construed as a requirement for an election of species, since each nucleotide and amino acid sequence is not a member of single genus of invention, but constitutes an independent and patentably distinct invention.

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-19 and 25-30, drawn to a method of making a *Lycopersicon esculentum* plant that contains within its genome an allele that encodes for resistance to tomato yellow leaf curl virus in the coupling phase with an allele that encodes for resistance to root-knot nematodes comprising the identification of said alleles, the comparison of polynucleotide sequences,

the identification of polymorphisms, and the introgression of said alleles into the genome of a *Lycopersicon esculentum* and plants derived from said method, classified in class 800, subclass 266.

- II. Claims 20-24, drawn to a method of producing a *Lycopersicon esculentum* plant in a tomato breeding program as a source of breeding material by obtaining a *Lycopersicon esculentum* plant that contains within its genome at least one tomato yellow leaf curl virus resistance allele designated as *Ty-1* in the coupling phase with at least one root-knot nematodes resistance allele designated as *Mi-1*, classified in class 800, subclass 267.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because:

Group I and Group II are patentably distinct. For example, Group II does not require the identification of alleles that encodes for resistance to tomato yellow leaf curl and root-knot nematodes nor does it require the designing of molecular tests as is required for the invention of Group I. Furthermore, searching the invention of Group I together with the invention of Group II would impose a serious search burden. In the instant case, prior art searches of a method of making a *Lycopersicon esculentum* plant that contains within its genome an allele that encodes for resistance to tomato yellow leaf curl virus in the coupling phase with an allele that encodes for resistance to root-knot nematodes comprising the identification of said alleles, the comparison of polynucleotide sequences, the identification of polymorphisms, and the introgression of said alleles into the genome of a *Lycopersicon esculentum* and plants derived from said method are not coextensive with prior art searches of a method of producing a

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Lycopersicon esculentum plant in a tomato breeding program as a source of breeding material by obtaining a *Lycopersicon esculentum* plant that contains within its genome at least one tomato yellow leaf curl virus resistance allele designated as *Ty-1* in the coupling phase with at least one root-knot nematodes resistance allele designated as *Mi-1*. Search of each of these inventions would require different key word searches of each group using divergent patent and non-patent literature databases. The different searches would then require subsequent in-depth analysis of the unrelated prior art literature, placing a serious burden on the Office in terms of both search and examination. As such, it would be burdensome to perform examination of inventions I and II together.

Because the inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, classification, and fields of search, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under CFR 1.17(i).

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Keith O. Robinson, Ph.D. whose telephone number is 571-272-2918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Amy Nelson, Ph.D. can be reached on 571-272-0804. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Keith O. Robinson, Ph.D.

March 9, 2005



ASHWIN D. MEHTA, PH.D.
PRIMARY EXAMINER